

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A system for selecting open shortest path first (OSPF) aggregates to advertise, comprising:

a database configured to include candidate OSPF aggregates and corresponding weights; and
an aggregate selector, associated with said database, configured to select at least a subset of said candidate OSPF aggregates to advertise by an area border router such that a selected path length between a particular source and destination subnets selected ~~resulting~~ from advertisement of weights corresponding to said subset approaches a shortest path length between said particular source and destination subnets irrespective of said weights advertised ~~advertisement~~.

2. (previously presented) The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said aggregate selector treats errors in said selected path length as having unequal degrees of importance.

3. (currently amended) A method of selecting open shortest path first (OSPF) aggregates for advertising, comprising:

storing data pertaining to candidate OSPF aggregates and corresponding weights; and
selecting at least a subset of said data pertaining to said candidate OSPF aggregates to advertise by an area border router such that a selected path length between a particular source and destination subnets selected ~~resulting~~ from advertisement of weights corresponding to said subset approaches a shortest path length between said particular source and destination subnets irrespective of said weights advertised ~~advertisement~~.

4. (currently amended) The method as recited in Claim 3 wherein said selecting comprises computing a lower bound of error for said candidate OSPF aggregates employing a set of recursive equations ~~treating errors in said selected path length as having unequal degrees of importance~~.

5. (currently amended) An autonomous network domain, comprising:
- a plurality of routers and interconnecting segments that cooperate to form subnets and paths therebetween; and
 - a system for selecting open shortest path first (OSPF) aggregates for advertising, including:
 - a database for containing candidate OSPF aggregates and corresponding weights, and
 - an aggregate selector, associated with said database, that selects at least a subset of said candidate OSPF aggregates to advertise by an area border router such that a ~~selected~~ path length between a particular source and destination subnets selected ~~resulting~~ from advertisement of weights corresponding to said subset approaches a shortest path length between said particular source and destination subnets irrespective of said weights advertised advertisement.
6. (currently amended) The domain as recited in Claim 5 wherein said candidate OSPF aggregates are represented by trees and said aggregate selector selects subsets of each of said trees to reduce an error thereof and combines said subsets to yield said subset to reduce an error associated with said trees ~~treats errors in said selected path length as having unequal degrees of importance.~~
7. (previously presented) A system for selecting open shortest path first (OSPF) aggregate weights for a particular area, comprising:
- a database for containing data pertaining to candidate OSPF aggregates; and
 - a weight assigner, associated with said database, that assigns, for said OSPF aggregates, weights based on an average distance of subnets in said area to a particular area border router (ABR) of said area.

8. (original) The system as recited in Claim 7 wherein said weight assigner employs a search heuristic to assign said weights.

9. (original) The system as recited in Claim 7 wherein said weight assigner treats errors in path lengths in said area as having unequal degrees of importance.

10. (original) A system for selecting open shortest path first (OSPF) aggregate weights for a particular area, comprising:

a database for containing data pertaining to candidate OSPF aggregates; and

a weight assigner, associated with said database, that employs a search heuristic to assign weights for said OSPF aggregates.

11. (original) The system as recited in Claim 10 wherein said weight assigner treats errors in path lengths in said area as having unequal degrees of importance.

12. (previously presented) A method of selecting open shortest path first (OSPF) aggregate weights for a particular area, comprising:

storing data pertaining to candidate OSPF aggregates in a database; and

assigning, for said OSPF aggregates, weights based on an average distance of subnets in said area to a particular area border router (ABR) of said area.

13. (original) The method as recited in Claim 12 wherein said assigning comprises employing a search heuristic.

14. (original) The method as recited in Claim 12 wherein said assigning comprises treating errors in path lengths in said area as having unequal degrees of importance.

15. (original) A method of selecting open shortest path first (OSPF) aggregate weights for a particular area, comprising:

storing data pertaining to candidate OSPF aggregates in a database; and
employing a search heuristic to assign weights for said OSPF aggregates.

16. (original) The method as recited in Claim 15 wherein said employing comprises treating errors in path lengths in said area as having unequal degrees of importance.

17. (previously presented) An autonomous network domain, comprising:
a plurality of routers and interconnecting segments that cooperate to form subnets and paths therebetween; and
a system for selecting open shortest path first (OSPF) aggregate weights for a particular area in said domain, including:

a database for containing data pertaining to candidate OSPF aggregates, and
a weight assigner, associated with said database, that assigns, for said OSPF aggregates, weights based on an average distance of said subnets in said domain to a particular area border router (ABR) of said area.

18. (original) The domain as recited in Claim 17 wherein said weight assigner employs a search heuristic to assign said weights.

19. (original) The domain as recited in Claim 17 wherein said weight assigner treats errors in path lengths in said area as having unequal degrees of importance.

20. (original) An autonomous network domain, comprising:
a plurality of routers and interconnecting segments that cooperate to form subnets and paths therebetween; and
a system for selecting open shortest path first (OSPF) aggregate weights for a particular area in said domain, including:

a database for containing data pertaining to candidate OSPF aggregates, and
a weight assigner, associated with said database, that employs a search heuristic to
assign weights for said OSPF aggregates.

21. (original) The domain as recited in Claim 20 wherein said weight assigner treats errors
in path lengths in said area as having unequal degrees of importance.